

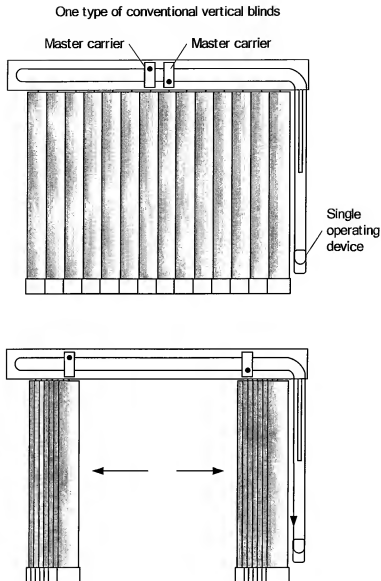
REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated January 8, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 8, 2007. Claims 30-42 have been examined. The Examiner rejected claims 32-36 and 38-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Toti*, (US 6,533,017) in view of *Arena* (US 4,293,021). The Examiner indicated that claims 30 and 31 are allowed. Additionally, the Examiner objected to claim 37 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 32, 35, 36, and 39 as being obvious over *Toti* in view of *Arena*. In response, Applicants have amended claims 32 and 35. Additionally, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 39 and Applicants have cancelled claim 36.

Amended claims 32 and 35 and claim 39 include the limitations of a first operating device positioned fixedly in a longitudinal direction of the head rail and a second operating device positioned fixedly in a longitudinal direction of the head rail and when the first operating device is operated, a space under a first end of the head rail is opened, and when the second operating device is operated, a space under a second end of the head rail is opened. The combination of *Toti* and *Arena* does not disclose these limitations. In contrast, *Toti* states "Alternatively, the system can be arranged to move at the right end, at either end, and/or at the middle" (see *Toti*, col. 10, lines 2-3). From this statement, the Examiner asserted that it is clear that two different traverse systems 60 are provided. However, Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion by the Examiner because this statement does not state that the system has two traverse systems 60. In fact, one type of conventional vertical blinds has one operating device that can move the louvers at either end as shown below.



In addition, *Toti* does not disclose any concrete structure that the system can be arranged to move at the right end, at either end, and/or at the middle. Consequently, *Toti* does not disclose a first operating device positioned fixedly in a longitudinal direction of the head rail and a second operating device positioned fixedly in a longitudinal direction of the head rail. *Areña* merely discloses a conventional endless cord arrangement connected to a master (leading) carrier 26A. However, *Areña* does not disclose two operating devices. As set forth in col. 5, lines 27-33 of *Areña*, "The lead carrier body 26A is positioned as the extreme left carrier (the overall directions

being reversed between FIGS. 2, 3 and FIG. 4) in a right-draw blind (and as the extreme left carrier in a left-draw blind with two lead carriers being used in a bi-parting blind). Similar to *Toti*, this statement does not mean that the blind comprises two operating devices; however, it likely refers to the blinds as shown in the above figure. Consequently, *Arena* does not disclose a first operating device positioned fixedly in a longitudinal direction of the head rail and a second operating device positioned fixedly in a longitudinal direction of the head rail and therefore fails to cure the deficiencies of *Toti*.

As the foregoing illustrates, combination of *Toti* and *Arena* fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 32, 35, and 39. Therefore, the combination of *Toti* and *Arena* fails to render claims 32, 35, and 39 obvious. Applicants therefore submit that claims 32, 35, and 39 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection. Additionally, since claims 33-34 depend from claim 32 and claims 40-42 depend from claim 39, these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 32 and 39.

Allowable Subject Matter

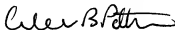
The Examiner indicated that claims 30 and 31 are allowed. Applicants appreciate allowance of these claims.

The Examiner objected to claim 37 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have rewritten claim 37 as new claim 43. Additionally, since new claim 44 depends from claim 43, this claim is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 43. Therefore, Applicants believe that new claims 43-44 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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